

The Novels of  
**ELIZABETH,**  
Queen of  
**ENGLAND.**

Containing the

**HISTORY**  
O F  
**BASSA SOLYMAN,**  
AND  
**The Princess**  
**ERONIMA.**

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**The Last Part.**

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Englised by *Spencer Hickman.*

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The Novels of  
ELIZABETH,

Queen of

ENGLAND, &c.

**N**O person is ignorant  
of that bondage  
whereunto Jealousie  
subjects all the  
Women of the  
*East*, but particularly those who  
live in the *Seraglio* of the Otto-  
man Emperors, the customs  
A 2 thereof

thereof are so severe, that they are all treated like Slaves, though not all equally beloved. There the inhumane Eunuchs tyrannize over their most innocent actions, and the old Governesses have a continual eye upon them; and whereas they all have but the affections of one single man to merit, this causes envy to reign with perpetual Intrigues; thus oftentimes betwixt constraint and love are created strange Adventures.

Those of *Mahomet* the Second, surnamed the Great, are illustrious, Victory attended all his Enterprizes, he conquered the Empires of *Greece* and *Trebizond*, subjected twelve Kingdoms, and gained thirty two Battels, notwithstanding he had the *Comnenes*, the *Scanderbegg*, the *Paleologues*

*leologues* and the *Huniades* to his Enemies: yet all his ambition for Glory, hindered him not from being more inclinable to Women than any of his Predecessors.

His first inclinations were declared in favour of *Racima*, a Turk by Nation, who as she was endowed with no less ambition and Subtlety than of Beauty (being by the birth of *Bajazet* advanced to the chief Glory of the Empire) she managed her credit in showring down her Favours at the Port, made her self many creatures by establishing their fortunes, and conserved an absolute Sovereignty over the heart of *Mahomet*, till the taking of *Negropont*.

A young Grecian Lady being made a Captive in this Island, in-



spired the Emperor with new Flames, and *Racima* unfortunately lost that Empire she had so long time enjoyed peaceably ; but the beautiful Captive opposed the passion of *Mahomet* with so obstinate a resistance, that he found in himself a necessity of loving her without the least hopes of conquering.

Her arrival at the *Seraglio* alarm'd all those that pretended to the Sultan's Heart ; her Beauty caused *Racima* particularly to tremble, and jealousy immediately rendred *Eronima* odious unto her, who in having the misfortune to please contrary to her inclination, had the ill luck to contract so dangerous an Enemy.

Yet was it not the fear thereof that disturbed the tranquillity

ty of her life, an innocent tenderness was a greater cause of her Grievs, than the fear of a Rival, whom the whole *Seraglio* dreaded.

*Bassa Solymán* by his extraordinary Merit and considerable Services had gained her affections. The cruel Laws of the *Seraglio* sentenced them never to see each other; and as it was dangerous for the fair Captive, or the amorous *Bassa*, to give the least intimation of their thoughts, so the constraint of hiding their very sighs cost them continual grievances.

*Solymán* was a man the most amiable, and of the most general esteem in the world, his Birth was very illustrious amongst the Turks, he had signalized himself in a most glorious manner in

all the Affairs of the Empire, the Emperor distinguished him from others by a most particular consideration: and there was no person in *Constantinople* who had a greater number of real Friends than himself.

All these advantages how considerable soever they might be, were of less moment to him than the interest of his love; and although *Eronima* promised her perseverance, he feared the ordinary returns of an age easie to be perswaded, and that *Mahomet* might in a short time overcome a resistance supported without hopes, which made him live in a most deplorable languish, which he withstood almost a year, seeking some consolation in the confidence of a Friend; but having a thousand  
times

times vainly endeavoured to see *Eronima*, or at least to write to her; he at last resolved to hazard the secret of his Love.

The access to the *Seraglio* of the Women was so difficult, that it was impossible for him to approach it without exposing himself to terrible Events. The prodigious number of Guards without, and the active observation of the Eunuchs within, utterly destroyed all his Enterprises, these difficulties appeared somewhat less dangerous on that side next the Gardens; and *Solyman* being in a strict bond of Friendship with the *Bostangi Bassa*, or chief Gardiner, resolved to discover to him the whole mystery of his heart.

*Morat* possessed this Office, which is one of the most considerable



siderable in the Empire, and that which gives a man, above all others, the greatest liberty with the Emperour ; and *Solyman* hoping for some succour by the privileges of the grand Gardiner, sought him out as soon as ever he had taken this resolution ; and living with him in that intimacy which made them neglect the regularity of Visits, and the pleasantness of the Weather favouring his design, they took a Walk together upon the Seaside.

*Solyman* delayed not long without entring into a conversation of amorous interests, but not finding the grand Gardiner to entertain the subject according to his desire, *My dear Morat*, said he to him, (stopping him) *I conjure you to declare to me*

me whether you have ever loved or not? this question for which the *Bostangi Bassa* was not prepared, made him to blush, having an Intrigue which he feared was now discovered, said he, why do you ask me this question? *To unfold my heart to you,* said *Solyman*, *I am in love, and if ever you knew this passion by experience, you will have the greater indulgence for me.* If Examples may be any thing beneficial to you, replied *Morat*, I must confess that I do love most tenderly. *Pity me then,* continued the *Bassa*, *and give me your assistance at the same time; I love in the Seraglio, and not a Sultaneſs indifferent to the Emperor, but Eronima who intirely possesseth his heart.* Ha! said *Morat*, do you love *Eronima*? and have you not fore-

foreseen the misfortunes which the Sultan's concurrence may bring upon you? *Had I not known Eronima*, replied *Solyman*, till after Mahomet had set his affections upon her, I had not been perhaps more difficultly vanquished; but, *Morat*, my love preceded his, we are now alone, and I can in few words recount you the Story.

*The History of Bassa Solyman  
and the Princess Eronima.*

**I**T was in this very City, and in this same Pallace which from hence we behold, that my passion commenced; but *Morat*, the time and state of Affairs were very different; then War laid all things desolate, now Peace is established; 'twas then  
the

the Capital City of the *Paleologean* Empire, as it is now of the *Ottoman* ; there nothing appeared but objects of horreur, here nothing but pleasantness : in short, it was at the Conquest of *Constantinople*, reserved for the happy destiny of *Mahomet*, that I saw *Eronima*, and dedicated my self for ever to her.

The Employ I had in that Attack which gain'd us the City, separated me oftentimes from the Emperour, and whilst the valour of *Constantine* withstood him at one of the Gates, we forced another, and marched towards the Pallace, the Guards whereof being dismayed, rendered themselves at the sound of our Victory ; I moderated the fury of the Turks to the utmost of my power, but was obliged to



to give way to its first Torrent.

So soon as we were Masters of the entrance into the Pallace, our victorious Troops pillaged all its Appartments: this commodious occupation was favourable to many of the Grecians, for those were suffered to flie who made no resistance, but the obstinate were cut to pieces; there the expiring Victims Groans were mixt with Shouts of the joyful Conquerors, and in this Confusion I failed not to succour the Women, and prevent that violence which might be committed upon them, and in the midst of many Grecian Carcases I found *Eronima* covered with the Blood of those that died in her defence: this Rampart was too weak to secure her from the Soldiers Insolence, whereof  
she

she had found a direful proof, had not I just then arrived; I found her abandoned to all the rigour of a dismal Adventure; she was beautiful, though she endeavoured to hide it, and more prevailing against me than all the force of the *Paleologues*; her charms instantly made their utmost progress, and love (which destined me most cruel Sufferings) found not the least Obstacle in rendring her the sole Mistress of my Heart, and a pre-saging interest made me thoughtful of removing her from the sight of the Sultan. I made use of my authority over the Troops to dismiss them, and I contemplated *Eronima* a long time without power to break silence, though the *Grecian* Language was as familiar to me as

as our own; she look'd upon me as an Enemy whose power ought to give her fresh Allarms, and trembled at my approach; although I had thrown down my Cymeter, and returned my Ponyard, and my eyes far from threatning any new misfortune, pronounced nothing to her but an assured Victory. She told me afterwards that grief having bereft her of her senses, she took me for a *Barbarian* who came to complete her disgrace; and in these thoughts retiring some few paces, *Come not near Eronima,* cryed she, *unless thou comest to give me death; thou art not the first of thy Nation who would not spare my Sex, and this entertainment shall be more sweet to me, than any pity which can prolong my misfortune.* These words full

full of resolution, augmented my love. Although I am born a Subject to *Mahomet*, said I, I am nothing the less disposed to render you all the Services you can demand; and in bearing Arms for my Prince, I shall never dishonour my self by committing cruelties. I am mortally grieved to have contributed towards your misfortune, and I would die in despair if I should not in some measure expiate the injury I have done you: I am a *Passa* to *Mahomet*, and I have some favour in his sight, which I shall wholly employ for you; the reallity of my words were confirmed to *Eronima* by my sighs, which are not usual to Barbarous Souls. She considered me with a little more earnestness, and not finding me of that cruel aspect



aspect her fear had perswaded her to. *If I have done you any injustice,* said she, *the condition you find me in hath sufficiently chastised me. I stand in need of a generous protection, and if my misery is capable to touch you with the least compassion, you have an opportunity to demonstrate it, in removing me from the sight of the Emperor, whom I dread more than death.*

I was over-joyed to see her disposed to shun *Mahomet*; the time was short, and as the Soldiers had left me at liberty with her, I charged *Ibrahim*, whose fidelity was well known to me, to conduct her with some Women of her Retinue to a House adjoining to the Pallace, which he had made himself Master of, and having not opportunity to stay

stay longer, I went to find the Emperour, who was entred the City after he had seen the last of the *Paleologues* expire.

All possible order was taken this first night in *Constantinople*, the Janizaries had the Guard of the Gates, the rest of our Army guarded the Walls, and the Emperor took his Quarters in the Pallace.

But I found my self little sensible of the success of our Arms, it was *Eronima* alone that wholly occupied my thoughts, and having contributed to her misfortunes, my love reproached me of those glorious Actions, for which I applauded my self before I saw her.

So soon as I could part with the Emperour, I hasted to the House whereunto *Ibrahim* had conducted

conducted *Eronima*; she welcomed me with much civility, and an admirable constancy, although she had heard the news of the Emperor of *Greece* his death, and the rest of the Princes of her Blood.

If at the first sight she appeared beautiful to me, she appeared much more so at this time, her eyes were now less troubled, her countenance more serene, and her Habits put into greater order, added new charms unto her. I was now too amorous to conceal it, and in spite of all my reservedness, *Eronima* perceived what *Mahomet's* Conquests had cost me; my eyes were so tender and submissive, that what passion soever she observed in them could not hinder her from granting me the pleasure to behold

behold the splendor of hers.

She informed me then that she was Daughter to *Demetrius Paleologus*, Brother to the Emperor *Constantine*, that a dangerous sickness had detained him from going forth of *Constantinople* with his Imperial Family, where he was constrained to attend the success of this War; and after having spoken many obliging things to me, she conjured me to facilitate her escape to some Sanctuary where she might be secure.

Imagine then how great my grief was to see her in this resolution of leaving me, I had enjoyed no further pleasure in her sight, than what made me sensible how contrary her desires were to the well-fare of my life, and now that I must be forced to  
deprive



deprive my self of her sight for ever, or contract her hatred in opposing her retreat; here Love and Honour made a long engagement, till my particular interest yielded to the Princesses pleasure, and I resolved to suffer her departure, though at the price of my life, which I thought would expire with grief.

The hours that I passed in her company served only to render me the more amorous of her, and she received my cares with great acknowledgment, but I observed that she suffered my visits not without some pain in a place where her conduct was not known, which consideration made me the rather determine to separate my self from her.

As soon as *Mahomet* had secured his Authority from all man-  
ner

ner of Insurrections in *Constantinople*, he caused all his treasure at *Adrianople* to be brought thither ; and after orders being given to establish his Household, and beautifie the *Seraglio* , he thought upon nothing more than seeking new Conquests.

Though he communicated this design unto me, I wavered not to procure the departure of the Princess *Eronima* , this effort was not made without causing a great alteration in my person, which *Eronima* perceiving, asked me obligingly what was the occasion thereof ; I was overjoyed that she observed me so much as to take notice of it ; and as nothing that can in the least flatter a Lover, escapes his imagination, I believed that at least in losing her, I might hope to be pityed by her. Madam,

Madam, said I, the despair to which you see me reduced, is but the beginning of a condition yet more unhappy, since I am at the very point of losing you, and in all appearance for ever. *What passion soever I may have,* replied the Princess, *for my liberty, if it costs you so dear, I shall renounce it with my whole heart.* If you only wish for it, I continued, it is sufficient indispensably to engage me to procure it; but, Madam, if this Action can merit any thing from you, give me leave not to see you part without discovering the Secret of my Soul. I should have been less indiscreet, if it had been possible for me to die in your presence; you are going, Madam, to leave me, destined to all the rigours of absence, my

my fortune is not considerable enough to offer you, and you esteem me not worthy of fixing my self to yours. I discourse to you of my love for the first and last time of my life; and in spite of all the ardent sentiments I have for you, I will be the person who shall conduct you to the Vessel which is to convey you from *Constantinople*; and I will make sincere Vows and Prayers for the prosperity of your Voyage, which will possibly cause my death: not to exaggerate my unhappiness to you, thereby to draw acknowledgments from you which are not my due; I know too well that I have justly merited my misfortune, in contributing towards yours, but 'tis in some measure to oblige you to re-

B

member



member me with some pity. Although my Discourse was irregular, it had continued, had not the Princess interrupted me. *The Sentiments whereof you speak,* said she, *have been too advantageous to me to find an ill reception, and I have no less reason, Sir, to complain than you, since there can be nothing more cruel to a generous Soul, than a necessity of appearing ungrateful; I know the value of my obligations to you, your merit is not less known to me; and can you believe I shall be able to enjoy any repose, so long as I must reproach my self with the loss of yours? I wish to Heavens! most generous Solyman, that you could penetrate the very bottom of a heart which never found any thing but your self worthy its esteem, you would there discover*  
that

that it is truly sensible, and incapable of forgetting what is due unto you; it is not just, that in removing my self from you, I should deprive you the advantages of your Victory, which I can assure you, without blushing, has extended beyond the Empire of Constantinople: believethen, that if that moment which seperates us, prove bitter to you, I shall not find it more sweet; and that if I should hearken only to my inclination, I should follow the fortune which fastens you to the Ottoman Empire, or I should consent to see you allyed with my own: but, Sir, what would the world say, to see the Daughter of Demetrius, a Princess who to be miserable, neither loses her name, nor family, follow a Bassa of Mahomet, or suffer him to wander with her from

*Sanctuary to Sanctuary?* Ah! cruel point of Honour, said I, which I must purchase with so many woes: you shall depart, I will not follow you, Heaven shall decide the rest, and you may appoint what place you will be conducted to.

*Eronima* replied many obliging things to me, which served only to augment my grief: she acquainted me she had a design to retire her self towards the Western Emperour; and conjured me withal to hasten her departure, which I perform'd with as much dilligence, as if it had been for my good fortune: at length she embarked one night under the conduct of two Grecians, whose liberty I had obtained, and some Women of hers who had not forsaken her.

I have

I have not force enough to tell you what I then did, nor what revolutions I had in my heart; my despair triumphed at *Eronima's* constancy, her looks appeared tender to me, she could not hide some sighs from me, I saw her weep: but, my dear *Morat*, she left me at the same instant, and all these favourable appearances served only to render her loss the more cruel unto me.

I instantly resolved not to inform my self of her, hoping that her absence would assist my recovery; but when a person loves, it is impossible to judge of the time to come; my disquiet obliged me to send *Ibrahim* into the West, who made his Voyage in vain, and returned without the least intelligence of *Ero-*



*nima*: and I was divided betwixt dispair, that some accident might arrive to him, and fancy that she had not contracted a real confidence in me.

Other Conquests (whither I always carried my affection) succeeding that of *Constantinople*, *Mahomet* fixed his resolution upon that of *Negropont*; we found there an obstinate resistance, which cost the Emperor much time, and many men; the Venetians had sent thither very considerable Forces, which were prepared to receive us; but all this served only to make the Ottoman Triumph more glorious; and after the general Conquest of the whole Island, the ancient City of *Calchis* surrendered like the others, and the Emperor forced all that could oppose him. Before

Before I had loved *Eronima*  
I fought like a man who hus-  
banded both his Honour and For-  
tune, but now I only fought oc-  
casions with a design to die ; I  
precipitated my self with plea-  
sure, where I saw any danger.  
And I protest to you, that my  
carelessness of life gave me no  
small share in this Victory ;  
which having secured the Em-  
perors pretensions, and all things  
being quiet, he retired to the  
Pallace, to enjoy a little repose  
after this Expedition. A con-  
tinual succession of prosperities  
placed him in that happy state  
where pleasant Ideas make so  
deep an impression, when *Or-  
cam Bassa* presented him with a  
fair Captive, whom he had ta-  
ken at the Siege of *Calchis*. They  
who first saw her beheld her

with admiration, and deplored her fortune, which destined her to the slavery of the *Seraglio*. But, *Morat*, do but conceive my astonishment, imagine my grief when I knew this Captive to be the same *Eronima* whose absence had caused me so great sufferings; I found her more beautiful than ever, but subjected to a misfortune, from which all the violence I had committed upon my self could not defend her; and I was the second time covered with the gore of her Defendants. Straight our eyes embraced each other with a mutual acknowledgment of love, in spite of all the troubles that oppressed us; but if mine expressed their tenderness by their glances upon the Princess, hers declared an absolute order, to do nothing,

nothing that might betray us ; the danger was great, which I feared not for my own part, neither perhaps did *Eronima* for hers, nevertheless it behoved us to restrain our selves, since the least discovery could produce nothing to us but most dismal effects.

As *Eronima* at first sight cancell'd all that had hitherto taken possession of *Mahomet's* Heart, he became no sooner àmorous, than jealous; and suffered us no long time to partake the pleasure of seeing her in his presence. The Princess was shut up in a place, by his order, whereunto none but Women and Eunuchs had access, yet finding her too much exposed at *Calchis*, he sent her to *Constantinople* with all the precaution his love required, with-



out any possibility of my seeing her.

I understood at *Calchis* that she suffered Shipwrack upon the Coasts of that Island, and that the Governor thereof was smitten with her; and had used all his endeavours to make her sensible of his passion, and had detained her there contrary to her inclinations.

But she had parted for *Constantinople* without leaving me the least subject of consolation, had not *Ibrahim* assured me he could deliver a Letter to her, which notwithstanding the great danger, I did run the risque, and it succeeded better than I durst hope for. *Eronima* answered my Letter: the Contents whereof were these:

To

## To Eronima.

**I**F the fear of displeasing you did not exercise a greater power over me, than that of irritating the Emperor, I would either die at Calchis, or you should not enter into the Seraglio. But, Madam; I heard all that your eyes spoke to me, and the obedience I yield to them, is a new proof of my passion, which you ought to remember with some pity; lament the unfortunate man, who in losing you, loses all the tranquillity of his life; believe that my affection shall follow you to those places where the Sultan shall often make you an offering of his; and doubt not that I will search you in despite of all perils, were I but assured of your consent.

Solyman

*Solyman* then pulled out *Ero-nima's* Answer; and read it in these words.

To *Solyman*.

**Y**OU had cast me into utter despair, had you not understood all that I would have spoken to you in the presence of Mahomet; your life was at stake, and it was too much for me to wish you should obey me. I have placed your moderation to account, and demand of you the continuance of those sentiments you have declared to me, they shall be my chief consolation in distress; but if therein you desire I should find pleasure without interruption, do not expose yourself to those hazards which may prove equally dreadful to us both, preserve

preserve your self, if you have any kindness for my repose; I shall respect the Sultan and all his grandeur with so great indifference, that I shall wholly fix my self upon the remembrance of you.

This, my dear *Morat*, continued the *Bassa*, was all that love has yet granted me by the management of *Ibrahim*. This mark of *Eronima*'s bounty doth something alleviate my grief; the pleasure of believing my self beloved by her, does sometimes hinder me from falling into despair; but this is not sufficient to render me happy, *Eronima* is in the *Seraglio*, *Mahomet* is powerful, and who can be assured that she will always resist?

Thus *Solyman* concluded his Discourse, and seeing the grand  
Gardiner



Gardiner to be as it were in a dream, without speaking; *Dost thou say nothing to me, Morat?* continued me, *And can all the power thou hast in the Gardens do nothing for me?* If the Enterprize you would take in hand, replied the *Bostangi-Bassa*, did only expose my fortune, or my person, I should not hesitate to give you this counsel, since your satisfaction seems to be fastned to it: but *Solyman*, consider well into what perils it will engage *Eronima*; the Emperor is generous, but he is also cruel without moderation when he is offended. The like Adventures have cost dear to some of our Office. The violencies of *Amurat* were not so long since, but you may remember them: if examples in this nature cannot terrifie

terrifie you, nor the Ideas of punishment restrain you, represent to your self *Eronima*, expiring by poison, strangled by Mutes, or some more cruel ways of death. *Cruel Friend*, cryed the *Bassa*, why dost thou depict so terrible a piece to me? no, no, I will put no confidence in my love, and I will rather die than expose *Eronima* to the least of dangers.

*Solyman* pronounced these words with so much grief, and in a manner so piercing, that *Morat* could not avoid pitying him; he was in love himself, and knowing all the force of this passion by experience, he resolved in spite of all that could possibly arrive, to engage himself in a commerce, the least knowledge whereof, must necessarily destroy all those that were concerned in it.

I have not alledged these difficulties, to excuse my self from serving you, said he to his friend, embracing him, but I thought my self obliged to represent them to your view, that so you might undertake nothing without precaution; dispose then of all the interest my Office gives me; and perhaps too, said he, smiling upon him, the favour of some one Sultaneſs; be not sparing of my life or fortune, and believe that I am ready to undertake all things for you; I do not despair of giving you even your desired satisfaction, and I have a certain means to ſucceed in it.

*Solyman* expreſſed his joy and thankfulneſs to *Morat*, by an infinite number of tender words. I would not propoſe your writing

ting to *Eronima*, said the grand Gardiner, although I am sure I can deliver the Letter to her own hands, it would prove but an imperfect pleasure ; and if it should happen to be lost, the events may be of fatal importance : but I will labour to let you see her, she comes not into the Gardens, whether it be, that she is more strictly observed than the rest, or that she loves not that walking, I know not : but I know a person who can make it agreeable to her. I can hide nothing from you, since you have thus opened your thoughts to me. I am in love with the Sultaneſs *Baffima*, Sister to the Emperor ; she hath a great intimacy with *Eronima* : another time I shall tell you more, but now 'tis time to go to the *Seraglio* ;  
and



and it is sufficient that I tell you by what means I will serve you.

*Morat*, by this discourse, restored *Solyman's* Spirits into a more tranquil condition than they had known of a long time ; and the amorous *Bassa* relyed wholly upon his promises.

But whilst he flattered himself with the pleasures which the grand Gardiner would give him, Love, who reigns in the *Seraglio* with greater Empire than in any part of the world, prepared new Adventures for him.

Although the passionate cares of *Mahomet* could not shake *Eronima's* stability, the jealousy and hatred of *Racima* were not the less violent ; she did not amuse her self with complaints and murmurings, but sought ways of revenge ; by a powerful  
intrigue

intrigue she drew in the Janisaries to her interest, and spread abroad reports amongst them, not sparing the Emperor's Glory, whatever might engage them to a dangerous revolt.

This was not difficult for her to do. The *Aga*, or General of the Janisaries, was her Creature; 'twas *Racima* that advanced him from the Emperor's Chamber to this important charge; he had a natural inclination to infidelity, and every way proper to execute the fury of *Racima*. He then spake aloud amongst the Janisaries, that it was a great shame for them to live in a detestable idleness, when they were capable of pretending to the conquest of the whole world: and in the end condemning the Amours of *Ma-*  
*homet*

*homert*, which buried the chief Glory of their Arms within the compass of the *Seraglio*. Thus he with ease excited those Spirits prone to mutiny.

The Janizaries are the Sultan's Guards, who by their valour are distinguished far above his other Forces, and the good or ill fortune of the *Ottoman* Emperors always depends upon their *Caprichio*. *Amurat* the first instituted them, they are always about the number of twenty thousand of them at the Port of *Constantinople*, and sometimes fifty thousand; there is extraordinary care taken of those who are to fill up these vacancies; they are such persons who are always passionate for war, and they despise those Princes that do not lead them out to it.

The

The happy fortune which joyned Victory to all *Mahomet's* Enterprises, had too much accustomed them to overcome, to reside in peace at the Port of his Pallace; the dangerous *Aga* adding his subtlety to their natural inclination, made them look upon the Sultan's love as a weakness that extended even to themselves; the most cowardly of them highly blamed his Conduct, and made them cry, To Arms! as oft as they saw him appear.

The Prince knew too well the importance of their Insurrections, not to be in apprehension thereof: he then published, to appease them, that he had great designs for them, and appeared daily at their Assemblies: but *Racima*, who spoke by the mouth  
of



of the *Aga*, let them know how far any such designs were from them; and destroyed what ever *Mahomet's* Candor could infuse to them.

Notwithstanding all this could not unbind him from *Eronima*, and the storm he saw ready to fall upon him, could not move him. *Solyman* was the person whom he esteemed the most in his Empire; and seeing himself in that state which required prudent Counsels, it was from him alone that he required them: *I am persvaded that my interests are dear to you*, *Solyman*, said he to him, the same day that he discovered his passion to *Morat*: *You know the fury which begins to spread it self amongst the Fanisaries; and you are not ignorant perhaps, that it is also the effects of*  
*Racima's*

Racima's Fealousie, I ought to fear the mischievous consequences: in the mean time, the interest of my heart will not suffer me to part with Eronima; they would absolutely destroy her, and I am resolved to defend her, although it should prove to be even at the expence of my whole Empire; give me, if it be possible, such counsels as may be agreeable with my love; and tell me what I may do to calm these troubles, and preserve the thing that I love; I am to be pityed every way, the inflexible Eronima will not so much as hear my sighs, though they are likely to cost me so dear. I could make use of my authority to constrain her; but tyranny is not the way to gain a heart.

Solyman was truly generous, and how great interest soever he had

had in the Emperor's Discourse, he could not chuse but pity him; he assured the Prince of his zeal and discretion; but at the same time he could not avoid tasting some joy, in learning from the mouth of a redoubted Rival, that *Eronima* was still the same: he answered the confidence that *Mahomet* reposed in him, by the most useful counsels that he was able to give him, as that he should always flatter the Janisaries, and affect some pleasant aspects towards the Sultaneſs Queen, till ſuch time as he could work upon ſome of the beſt beloved Officers of the Empire, to put the Forces and People of *Constantinople* into a condition of withſtanding the rage of the Janisaries. *I will render your fortune ſo little different from my own,*



own, said the Emperor to *Solyman*, that you shall know how great my acknowledgments are for your fidelity, and in espousing you to the *Sultaneſs Baſſima*, my Siſter, I will link you ſo cloſe to my perſon, that nothing ſhall ever remove you from me. The *Baſſa's* countenance changed at this Diſcourſe; and *Mahomet* imagining it was with joy, accompanied his promiſes with many embraces; *Solyman* not imagining any thing that could authoriſe a reſuſal, which muſt neceſſarily baniſh him from the Emperor's favour, was conſtrained to feign an acceptance, and make ſecret reparations to *Eronima* and *Morat*.

As ſoon as he awaked on the morrow, he failed not to ſeek for the *Boſtangi Baſſa*, but could



not speak with him in two days after. The Emperors promise to *Solyman*, in respect of the Princess *Bassima* did not allarm the grand Gardiner, who knew the generosity of his Friend, and his pre-engagement to another; he told him that he had seen the young Sultaneſs who was very much inclined to ſerve him with the Princess *Eronima*; 'twas now a great honor to *Solyman* to have engaged a perſon of that importance in his intrigue, and his hopes thereof were augmented.

The Sultaneſs *Bassima* loved *Morat* too tenderly, not to endeavour with all expedition to ſerve his friend; there was no time limited for her to ſee *Eronima*, but ſhe went to her Apartments at her own pleaſure; and

and the Sultan who loved his Sister, was overjoyed to see her contract a friendship with a person that was the most dear in the world to him.

The lovely Sultana soon found an occasion to speak of Saliman, whereat *Eximia* blush-  
ed; but *Bassina* cast a look upon her, that answered for her sin-  
cerity. I am interested for the  
Bassa, said she to her, and al-  
though I am Sister to the Emperor,  
you need not have the least scruple  
in speaking to me. I knew some  
time since that he loves you, I  
am not ignorant of your Adven-  
tures at Constantinople, of those  
since at Negropont; and I know  
better since that he hath suffered  
for you all that love can make a  
man suffer: and begs your sight  
but for one moment, as a recom-

pence for all the misfortunes you have created him; This Discourse made *Eronima's* colour to encrease; but seeing the *Ottoman* Princeſs ſo well inſtructed in what had paſſed betwixt her and the *Baſſa*, ſhe was obliged to acknowledge it. 'Tis true, that *Solyman*, ſaid ſhe, has done thoſe things for me which merit my utmoſt thankfulneſs; and had I believed this paſſion which you aſſure me he reſerves for me, I could ſtill enjoy that liberty which I ought not to hope for; you can know only from himſelf what you have now related to me; and in what place, *Madam*, ſhe went on ſighing, have you ſeen him? Does he come expoſing himſelf to the cruel Adventures of the *Seraglio*? He has not yet done it, answered *Baſſa*,  
ſima,



*fima, but I hope that you and I shall give him an opportunity; the entry into the Gardens is free to us. Ah, Madam, cried Eronima, I have not resolution enough to engage him in so manifest a peril. These obstacles which alarm you, interrupted the young Sultaneſs, have hitherto caused more fear than miſchief; I was born in the Seraglio, and I know all the Avenues thereof; the Eunuchs have ſome deference for me, and you are Miſtreſs of your own walks; I have ſome power over the grand Gardiner, follow my advice, and do not reſuſe Solyman that ſatisfaction which will coſt you ſo little. Baſſima then acquainted Eronima of her intelligence with Morat; and at laſt ſurmounted the repugnancy ſhe had reſtiſied.*



There are occasions when love fights only to be overcome: *Ervanina* consented to what the Sultaneſs deſired, ſo that all things contributed to favour the *Baſſa*; an Indiſpoſition fortunately kept the Emperor in his Bed. *Morat* neglected not ſo favourable an opportunity; and after he had given the Princeſſes a Rendezvous in a place called the *Sultaneſs's Grove*, at the appointed hour he took care to conduct his Friend thither.

The Seafon was fair, the Emperor ſick, the Sultaneſſes retired, the Gardiners gone to reſt, and the Gardens, by the diligence of *Morat*, more ſolitary than they were ever wont to be: *Solyman* trod thoſe Walks with that agreeable emotion which precedes the greateſt pleaſures;  
and

and the grand Gardiner having conducted him into the Sultanesses Grotto, left him there, whilst he went out to spy lest any one should come to trouble them.

Love, and the hopes of Happiness, whereof he believed himself secure, banished all his griefs: he had not long attended, but some body came in, and an amorous transport immediately laid him prostrate at the feet of a Princess, where he lay fighting for some minutes without being able to speak: but at length, *It is then permitted me to see you, Madam,* said he in the most tender manner in the world, *and in despite of all the difficulties which had taken from me all hopes, I can speak to you of my Love.* Solymán had fixed his

eyes upon the face of a person who heard him; and the Moon lent him so much light, as to let him see, that fortune had most cruelly deceived him, and that all which he thought he had spoken to *Eronima*, was addressed to the Queen Sultaneſs.

If his Surprize at this Adventure was great, that of *Racima's* was not leſs; ſhe ſaw a man at her feet who appeared very amorous. The Customs of the *Seraglio* made her Miſtreſs of his life; ſhe then deeply reſented *Mahomet's* inconstancy, the vengeance ſhe hoped for from the Janifaries ſeemed too ſlow; and beholding *Solyman*, whom ſhe inſtantly knew, as an inſtrument wherewith ſhe might the more readily ſuccour her ſelf, ſhe reſolved not to neglect this occaſion.

Do



Do you certainly know that I am *Racima*? said she, angrily to him, and the place where I see you, with the discourse which you use to me give me the power over your life, since you are *Bassa* to the Emperor, and that nothing can secure you from his wrath, if I acquaint him with your undertaking. *Solyman* was less sensible of the danger that threatned him, than of the joy that he had spoke nothing which could discover *Eronima*, chusing rather to feign a thing quite opposite to his sentiments to conceal the truth of them: Yes, *Madam*, he replied, I know you are the *Queen Sultaneſs*, and that I have not less offended the *Emperor* in approaching this place, than in discovering to you the state of my heart; we cannot guide love



as we list, 'tis a passion which observes no rule; and since it does absolutely possess me, I shall find more sweetness in dying after I have declared it to you, than in living with a secret that hath made me languish so long a time.

The Sultaneſs knew her Beauty ſufficiently to perſwade her that the *Baſſa's* vows were real and ſincere; he had ſeen her oft enough upon publick occaſions to become amorous of her; and ſhe being deſirous to gain a man abſolutely, whoſe ambition to pleaſe her might render him capable of all things, ſince he had already expoſed himſelf to ſuch imminent dangers; you may poſſibly find greater difficulties to encounter another time, ſaid ſhe, but the preſent temper of my Soul is favourable to you, as  
well

well as the season of retiring in the *Seraglio*; and if you truly think what you speak, it shall be your fault if you are not very fortunate; but be sure you narrowly respect what it is you engage in; I do not only require love in you, but submission, zeal and perseverance; you must assure me of a perfect obedience to what soever I shall demand of you; I give you two days to consider of it, at the end whereof you shall return to me in the same place, and at the same hour, to receive from me the measures of your Conduct.

To what constraint soever this accident might engage the *Bassa*, he chose rather to submit to it, than to give the least suspicion of the truth; he told *Racima* all that he possibly could, to persuade

swade her that he was amorous of her, he promised her to return to her the same person that she could desire him.

She left him in this manner, and he expected *Eronima* a long time ; being in a great Consternation by this Adventure, he pretended to make her a thousand reparations for this fault to which his misfortune had enforced him, but it was in vain ; and he went out of the Sultanesse's Grotto to seek the grand Gardiner, and finding him in the first Alley, *I am*, said he to him, *the most unfortunate of all men.* You would be so, replied *Morat*, and your impatience in going out of the Grotto hath deprived you of *Eronima's* sight : *What would you tell me ?* replied *Solyman.* That she sought

sought for you, said the *Bostangi Bassa*, and that not finding you in the *Grotto*, she is returned into the *Seraglio*, and hath robbed me of the conversation of *Bassima*. I am undone, *Morat*, cried *Solyman*. He then recounted to him what had passed, and they were both of opinion, that *Eronima* at her entrance into the *Grotto* had heard what *Solyman* said to *Racima*, and moved with anger and jealousy had retired.

*Morat* comforted his Friend, and promised him that he would disabuse the Princess by *Bassima*, and procure him some more happy rendezvous. He advised him at last to pursue his feigned passion, which would render him Master of *Racima's* confidence, and of all the Mysteries of the  
*Seraglio,*



*Seraglio*, and made him absolutely remember not to fail the Queen Sultaneſs of the Meeting, which might do him a vaſt prejudice; they went out of the Gardens together, and did not part that night.

*Morat* heard in the morning that *Baſſima* was ſick, at which *Solyman* deſpaired, becauſe this would retard his juſtification. The two days that *Racima* gave him, ran away too ſwift againſt his inclination; and at the appointed hour, the grand Gardiner conducted him to the Sultaneſſes *Grotto*; no ſooner had he entred therein, but the Queen Sultaneſs arrived, attended by a Slave, who immediately retired.

You ſee, ſaid ſhe, with how great confidence I render my ſelf  
to

to the first marks of your love ;  
my facility ought to surprise  
you : but in short , are you  
prepared to act implicitly all  
that can persuade me to think  
that you seek only to please me,  
and have you no remorse that  
you have already engaged so  
far ?

The *Bassa* was so confused, -  
that *Racima* might easily have  
discovered it, had not the place  
been so dark ; but he concealed  
his disorder as much as possibly  
he could, and did so well per-  
swade the Sultaneſs, that ſhe no  
longer doubted of his ſincerity ;  
and taking the habit of a Wo-  
man-Slave, which ſhe had hid  
in the *Grotto*, ſhe put it upon  
the *Bassa*, and covering his face  
with a Veil, made him follow  
her to the *Seraglio*, which he did,  
but

but with an agitation difficult to be expressed.

As soon as *Racima* was entred into her Chamber; she commanded all persons to withdraw, except the Slave who followed her to the *Grotto*; and for the greater security, she made *Solyman* go into a Closet; and observing some emotion in his countenance, Is it, said she to him, Love, or Fear, to see your self in a place you believe to be dangerous, that makes you unmoveable? do but love, and never trouble your self, there is nothing wanting to the precautions that I take; and if the possession of my heart be dear to you, you have now the power to gain it for ever; you did not tremble at introducing your self into the Gardens, where you might have

have been surpris'd by persons who would not have spared you, do not deceive the good opinion I have of you : 'tis not sufficient for me to hear that I am beloved, I must have the effect of all that I have required from you, and you shall be happy since fortune puts me into a capacity to make use of you.

*Solyman* began to feel that he was not capable to continue this counterfeit for long time, repented himself that he had believed the counsel of *Morat*, necessity forced him to answer; and he did all that he could possibly to content *Racima* by his words. You know, said she, the injury that the Emperor hath done me, in giving up himself to a Slave; a brave Soul can ill suffer these sort of inconstancies;  
I have



I have put in practise all things to revenge my self, the Janissaries have murmured, they may yet make an Insurrection by my means : but their Commotions perhaps may not reach my Rival, I must have a more sure and expedite revenge ; and 'tis from you, *Solyman*, that I demand it. I pretend to punish *Mahomet* in giving you a heart which you deserve better than he ; but you must repay this Boon, by a service that may establish my Repose. Your hand must commit an illustrious Crime, and must carry *Mahomet's* own Arms, and this Ponyard, said she, pulling out one of the Emperor's, which she had hidden, must punish his Infidelities, and deliver the *Seraglio* from a Captive, who makes it groan under her Lovers troubles.

troubles. In a word, I command you forthwith to go even to *Eronima's* Bed, and take away her life; after such an Expedition, expect the utmost of my Acknowledgment: the Janifaries are for me, my Son's Party is potent, and some thing may happen to make you the Head of the Empire. But, *Solyman*, said she, seeing his Colour change, you are disturbed, do not abuse me, she continued, casting a furious look upon him, and merit that confidence I repose in you.

*Solyman* was in so great a consternation at these words, that he could not look upon the Sultanness without horror, but endeavouring to sweeten her eyes, which by so wicked a design, gave a threatening aspect. If I were to fight the entire body of  
the

*the Fanisaries*, said he to her, or force the Gates of the Seraglio, you should not see me pause to do it, at the least of your orders; but, Madam, would you have me stab a Maid, that hath no weapon to oppose me with, but an innocent sleep; can a Lover so barbarous be pleasing to you, and is there no other way to revenge your Beauty? stay a little, till time disgusts the Emperor, and Scorn that change which is only ignominious to him.

If you truly loved me, replied the cruel *Racima*, you would only have in prospect the glory of obeying this my proposition, a little Blood which I too justly condemn, wou'd not affright you; alas, you refuse me a trembling hand, which perhaps would serve me ill, my own shall find a readier path to  
the

the heart of my Enemy, and in a few moments she shall be no longer in a condition to disquiet me.

This Transport redoubled the fears of *Solyman*; never was any Lover seen in so deplorable an extremity; the most violent Woman in the World extorting from him the worst of ills against a person he adored; he must either destroy *Eronima*, or himself if it should take the least breath, and after a hundred different resolutions, he fixeth upon this, to manage *Racina's* inclinations, and to deceive her, at least, till such time as he could advertise *Eronima* thereof, and to put things in that posture, to be wholly sacrificed to the Emperor's wrath.

*I believed, Madam, you only sought*



sought to try me, said he to her, with a more free air; but since you resolve to have Eronima's life effectually, I promise it with pleasure. In the meantime, said he, the better to perswade Racima, I shall plead for Mahomet; that you shall no sooner be without a Rival, but you shall restore him your heart. This doubt intirely pacified the Sultaneſs, whom Solymans resistance had irritated. She assured him, that he ought to fear nothing; and that he should have no reason to repent his serving her. At length she told him, that she had taken all her measures, that he ought not to delay, but a few minutes before he went to Eronima's Chamber, that as soon as he had revenged her, she would conduct him her self out of the Gardens

dens; and that on the morrow he should receive her Orders for all things that he was to do.

Whilst she was thus speaking, he thought upon nothing but *Eronima's* safety; one while he designed to declare this Adventure even to *Mahomet*; but as this could not be done without discovering his passion for the Princess, he was constrained to bethink himself not to tell it to any but she, when *Racina* had introduced him into her Chamber.

All these vexations hindred him not from promising himself some pleasure in hopes to see her one moment. At last, the hour that he was to go, arrived, and he marched under the conduct of a Woman slave, confident to *Racina*,

*cima*, after he had received the barbarous instructions of the Queen Sultaneſs.

A profound ſilence now reigned over the whole *Seraglio*, the Eunuchs were retired, the Sultaneſſes at reſoſe, and all the Lights extinguished. The Slave left the *Baſſa* at the firſt Door of *Eronima's* Apartment, which was left open by a treacherous Eunuch, whom *Racima* had corrupted; and after he had paſſed through many Chambers, he entered into the Princeſſes Lodgings, which were ſtill light.

A mortal grief oppreſſed her ever ſince ſhe heard his amorous converſation in the *Grotto*, ſhe had not ſtirred out of her Chamber, and *Baſſima* being ſick, had not undeceived her, and believing every thing that might make  
her

her despair, she spent her time in complaints.

When *Solyman* entred, she was laid down on a Couch with her Cloaths on, lamenting her Captivity less than the pretended Infidelity of her Lover, she lay sometime without espying him at her Chamber door, where he stopped: but at length perceiving him, and believing it was some Slave more careful of her than the rest, who came to see if she wanted any thing: *Retire*, said she to him, with a great deal of candor, *if I cannot take my own repose, 'tis unjust I should deprive others of theirs: the forlorn Slave durst not advance.* She continued, *Your diligence does me no kindness now; retire, I command you.*

D

*Solyman*



*Solyman* stood thus no longer, but cast himself at *Eronima's* Feet. She thought still the Slave would have asked some favour of her; but fixing her eyes upon his face, she soon discovered, notwithstanding her tears, and his disguise, some Lines which grief had not struck out of her memory, she had neither power to rise, nor to express her surprise; her love that was irritated, and his that was not, found themselves equally without motion, and a reciprocal trouble hindred these two persons, who loved the best of any in the world, from saying any thing of it. Yet nothing could hinder *Solyman's* sense of the pleasure in beholding the Princess, which made him at this moment forget even

even the imminent danger that threatened him, and notwithstanding *Eronima's* Resentments of his infidelity, her eyes cast a tender aspect upon him, and found him always too amiable.

The *Bassa* was just going to force his silence, and to spare a long recital of his woes, to justify himself, when a sudden noise causing him to turn his head, he espied the Emperor coming into the Chamber, and the Queen Sultaness conducted by many Eunuchs.

*Racima* could not introduce *Solyman* to the *Seraglio* with that secrecy, but *Altagis*, a Black Eunuch, faithful to the Empe-

ror, perceived it, who knew all the Slaves, and finding something extraordinary in the Visage of the *Bassa*, partly suspected him, and immediately went to advertise the Emperor thereof, whose discourse disquieted him, he knew by experience the Capaciousness of the Sultan Queens spirit, and not being able to pass over the night without better informing himself, he repaired to the Womens Apartment, and afterwards to *Racima's* Chamber.

Her impatience to know what *Solyman* had done, obliged her to follow him in a short time; *Mahomet* not finding her in her Chamber, was confirmed in the Eunuch's suspicions, and went directly

rectly to *Eronima's* Lodgings: now all was dark, for the Emperor would suffer no Lights with him; and *Racima* hearing a noise, thought it had been *Solyman*, imagining no other persons were awake in the *Seraglio*: *Is it you, Solyman?* said she, coming towards him, *have you sacrificed Eronima to me, and have you merited that I shall make you happy?* The Emperor no longer doubting, at these words seized the Sultaneſs by the Arm, and accompanied this action with menacing words, she knew the Prince's voice, and despair, ſeeing her ſelf diſcovered, taking away part of her reaſon, ſhe replied only by injurious Language.



*Mahomet* stopped not to hear them, the interest of *Eronima* called him to her, entring then into her Chamber (and causing *Racima* also to be conducted thither by the Eunuchs which *Altagis* had called) at the sight of the *Bassa* there, and the remembrance of the Queen Sultaneſſes words, he trembled; but fury ſucceeding his fear, there was no point of cruelty, to which deſire of revenge did not tranſport his imagination. *Traitor*, ſaid he to *Solyman*, what comest thou to ſeek in theſe ſacred places? and what baſe commerce canſt thou have with this guilty Sultaneſſ? Take my life, Sir, if that be capable of giving you ſatisfaction, replied the *Baſſa*, but take care for the preſervation of *Eronima's*.

*ma's. Dost thou, perfidious wretch, said the Sultan, dost thou exhort me to be careful of that life which even now thou wouldst have sacrificed? Let him be loaded with Irons, Altagis, take him from my sight, and let him be close Prisoner, till I determine the time and manner of his punishment.*

The unhappy *Solyman* was several times tempted to discover the secret of his heart; but the fear of displeasing *Eronima*, or contracting any misfortune upon her, prevented him, so that he only cast upon her some glances full of love and despair, but full of horror upon *Racima*; and following the Eunuchs that led him away, malicious fortune would make him appear yet

more criminal in dropping the Ponyard which the Queen Sultaneſs had given him.

She found the *Baſſa* appear too amiable and too obedient, to ſee him led to the place where he muſt loſe his life, ſhe was not troubled that ſhe was the cauſe of her own miſfortune, and this thought rendred *Mahomet* and the very day odious to her. 'Tis I, ſaid ſhe, that conducted him hitber; and 'tis me alone thou oughteſt to puniſh, I had armed him with thine own Ponyard to deſtroy my Rival, and our enterpriſe unfortunately failing, revenge thy ſelf on me if thou dareſt, ſhe ſhall not long enjoy the pleaſure of my loſs, and the loſs of her ſhall not be the leaſt of thy miſfortunes.

Thus

Thus whilst *Racima's* fury expressed it self in this manner, *Eronima* was just expiring in the Arms of her Women, it was not enough for her to believe *Solyman* was unfaithful, but she saw him ready to sheath a Poyard in her Heart; this reflection made *Racima* silent, dried her tears, shut her eyes, and put her into that condition which perswaded the Emperor she was now contented.

Whilst her rage thus pleased it self at so dolesome a Spectacle, the Princess recovered a little strength, by the care of her Slaves, and casting her eyes upon her implacable Enemy: *You have acted more,* said she to her, *(with a languishing voice)* than



*you designed to do ; the death which you prepared had been agreeable to me, but the life which now is left me, is going to be exposed to a thousand times more sensible evils. The Sultan would have spoke to the Princess, but she conjured him to give her some moments repose ; and as he only sought to please her, he retired, having first given orders to many Eunuchs to watch round her Apartments.*

*If I hearkned only to my just indignation, said he to Racima, thou shouldst not survive so many crimes, but I must punish them with greater terror, and Bajazet's Partisans shall see, of what a Mother he has the misfortune to be born. At length he caused her to be secured in her Chamber*

ber, and after having set a Guard upon her, he retired with *Altagis*, who prudently counselled him, not to publish an Adventure which so much dishonoured him, and which might cause *Racima's* Creatures to make an Insurrection: *Mahomet* knew the zeal of this Eunuch, and following his advice which appeared so reasonable to him, he concealed his wrath, and left the people to divide at the cause of the *Bassa's* and *Racima's* disgrace.

*Solyman* was in a condition the most deplorable of all men, he was much less concerned at the fear of death, than at the horror of an accident which made him appear as *Eronima's* Assassin; he continually thought

thought upon this, and preferred the good fortune of justifying himself, beyond his own life; the Princess had incessantly before her eyes the Image of her pretended Assassin, if the Blackness of his Attempt did inspire her with any resentment, it was soon obliterated by the Idea of that vengeance the Emperor was going to take. She was now in the same Pallace where she first saw *Solyman*, and where she received those Services which engaged her to so tender an acknowledgment, *Why*, said she oftentimes, *did he spare my life at such a time, when I looked upon him with horror, to take it after I had given him my whole esteem? the sentiments I have for him, have rendred all things*

things else indifferent to me, how many woes hath he cost me when I was constrained to shun him, what griefs has he not caused me since I arrived at the Seraglio? yet the barbarous man, after he had taken his heart from me, whose possession sweetened all my sufferings, comes to sacrifice me to the least favours of my Rival, yet in spite of all the infidelities he is guilty of, my tenderness still interesses it self for him, I have the weakness to lament him, and I would save his at the expence of my own life: Ah! cruel destiny of the Paleologeans, she added, (in pouring forth a torrent of tears) why dost thou so severely prosecute the Survivors?

The Princess continued in the  
like



like agitations all the succeeding days to this Adventure ; the Emperor redoubled his cares for her, and his spight for *Racima* ; who, notwithstanding her captivity, and moreover that she was convicted of several grand crimes; still hoped for succour from her subtle spirit.

Although the truth was not known of what had passed in the *Seraglio*, none could be ignorant of the Queen Sultaneſſes diſgrace, and of *Solyman*'s imprisonment , it was diverſly diſcourſed of ; but *Morat* alone penetrated the reaſons thereof, the indispoſition of *Baſſima* hindred him from learning the particulars ; the Emperor appeared ſo troubled and ſo reſerved that he durſt

durst not speak the least syllable of it to him ; and *Altagis*, who was his acquaintance, stirred not from the Womens Appartments, so that he was obliged to content himself with what he knew, and to seek, with some others of the *Bassa's* Friends, the means which they thought most proper to appease the Emperor's wrath.

But whilst they hereunto applied themselves vigorously, the Queen Sultaneſs was not idle on her part, her disgrace had not diminished her credit ; and seeing that all *Mahomet's* resentment was limited by her imprisonment ; She took advantage at his indulgence, and entertaining a pernicious commerce with  
the

the *Aga* of the Janisaries, she caused her Captivity to be published as nothing but the Sultan's injustice.

*How great a shame is it for us, says this Agent of Racima's loudly, to see the Mother to the Heir of the Empire, a Princess who loves glory, and the repose of her Subjects, sacrificed to the ambition of a Slave, who renders Mahomet the weakest of all men? The generous Solyman is at present chained with Irons, for being ready to serve the Queen Sultaneſs, and the Empire, let us not doubt but the ſame misfortune will ſhortly befall us; it is in your power, brave Janisaries, to put an obſtacle hereunto: you, I ſay, who are the only honour and ſupport of the*  
*Empire,*

*Empire, elevate Bajazet upon the Throne, give him early lessons of valour and generosity, he will without doubt make good use thereof, and you will assuredly signalize your selves hereby.*

This Discourse was approved by a general shout, the Janisaries spoke now of nothing but forcing the *Seraglio*, to snatch the feeble *Mahomet* from thence, to set up the young Prince in his place, and to strangle *Eronima* at *Racima's* feet. They loved *Solyman* whose valour was approved and murmured highly at his imprisonment.

*Constantinople* was divided in a moment, the Janisaries, the Port, and even the *Seraglio*, but the



the Queens Party was always the most potent ; the Janisaries were now in so great a number in the City, that they alone were able to defend it.

The Queen Sultaneſs ſoon learn'd in what manner Fortune acted for her intereſt, and promiſed her ſelf, by theſe favourable beginnings, the liberty of *Solyman*, the deſtruction of *Eronima*, and the Coronation of *Bajazet*.

This Conſternation leſs diſquieted the Emperor for his own ſake than for *Eronima's* ; his wrath excited him highly againſt *Solyman*, whom he looked upon as the chief motive of this Rebellion, he ſeveral times pronounced

pronounced the sentence of his death, but he could find none to execute it; and as he was confined in the *Seraglio*, the fear of *Racima* hindred the obedience due to his Orders: *You will lose your self, Sir, in taking off Solyman*, said the Chief of the Eunuchs to him, *you may from hence hear the Fanisaries mention his name, it appears sufficiently that his life is dear to them, calm this Tempest which grows loud, before you think upon vengeance, and give not the Mutineers a new subject to rebel. Mahomet was constrained to have some deference to these reasons, he knew the necessity he had to shew himself to the Soldiers, but he would not do it till he had seen Eronima again, that at least he might have this*

this satisfaction, in case any accident should befall him, to hinder it for the future.

He found her in her usual melancholy, but accompanied with those Charms that made him forget the preservation of his life and grandeur; *I am just at the point of perishing, fair Eronima, said he to her, is it possible you can refuse me at a time of misfortune and despair, what you would not accord me in my prosperity? I have lived without being able to make your heart flexible; and must I die in the same misfortune; can pity do nothing for me, and shall the Fanisaries in bereaving me of my Crown and Life, have the pleasure to see me hated by you to the last minute?*

The

The Princess who knew nothing of the troubles which menaced the Sultan's Grandeur, was surpris'd at this Discourse. I am not unjust enough to make vows against the happiness of your life, Sir, said she, and if it depended only upon me to establish it, I should not forbear to wish it you earnestly.

*Your Sentiments, Madam, are very generous, said the Sultan, but I wish they were more tender; should you have a little bounty for me, it were a weakness whereof you would not be obliged to blush; and if you did but love unfortunate Mahomet, he had perhaps acquired sufficient glory to justify your heart. You would enjoy but little by this advantage, she replied.*



plied. 'Tis true, the Prince interrupting her, said sighing, that fortune has declared her self against me, and that she attacks my power, and perhaps my life amidst all the Forces of my Empire: but could I be assured of being beloved by you but one moment, I should die with an intire satisfaction. If you will not give me this Boon, at least promise to bewail me. The Fanisaries would not trouble me, if my passion for you were less violent; 'tis the fair Eronima that makes all things revolt against me. Ha! Sir, replied the Princess, give them the blood of a miserable woman who creates so many troubles, my death will restore your quiet, and make them more submissive. You shall live  
in

in despite of them, said the Emperor in a most tender manner, and though it cannot be for me, it shall be at least to conserve some remembrance of me. The treacherous Solyman alone shall die, he hath but too long survived his crime, it is now time to punish him, and revenge our selves.

You may put him to death when you please, Sir, replied the Princess ( who was far from wishing the *Bassa's* death ) but I do not solícite you to lose a person whose valour has been so successful to you ; is he so criminal as to have prevented the Janisaries hatred ; and if he doth really love *Racima*, is he not sufficiently punished for it ? — *Eronima* was interrupted by an ex-

traordinary

traordinary shout, and *Altaxis* came in mightily affrighted to give the Emperor notice, that the Janisaries had already passed the first Gates of the *Seraglio*, and were forcing their way further : *Guard this Chamber*, said he to the Eunuch, *I will go and expose my self to their fury; but first of all the perfidious Solymán shall lose his life.* The Princess remained astonished at these words, and the Emperor marched to the places where he was called.

He there presently espyed a Crowd of Janisaries, with their Weapons in their hands, and lifting up his voice that he might be heard, *What come you here to seek*, said he to them, *have you any*

any right to authorise this your violence? They answered, We demand *Eronima*, and the liberty of *Solyman*; and we pretend in forcing this slave from you, to restore your valour to its first force, and to re-establish you in the paths of Glory.—*Villains*, replied the Sultan, *this valour which you know so little to respect, may yet conduct you into those parts where you may repent the provoking of it. How! do ye pretend to come, and regulate both my designs and my actions, even into my very Pallace? would you have me abandon the dearest interests of my heart to you? No, Eronima shall never go out of the Seraglio, till you have spilt all my blood; and for the Traitor whom ye demand, I'll deliver him to you in such a*  
E manner



*manner as befits his Crime, and  
my Resentment.*

These words excited a new murmuring amongst the Janisaries. They cryed, that they must be obliged to pull out *Eronima* and *Solyman* by force: Come Traitors, said the Emperor to them, putting his hand upon his Cymeter, attack your Prince, whom a far greater number of Enemies is not capable to affright, and who knows well how to punish those that offend him, to make them consider more than once how they revolted from him. The Sultan's Guards were ranged round about him: but the Janisaries were in so terrible a rage, that they overthrew without respect all things that would oppose their passage.

*Racine*

*Racima* on her part excited the like Commotions within the *Seraglio*: she had been advertised that the Emperor was going to strangle *Solyman*; all the Eunuchs feared her, and whilst *Altaxis* guarded *Eronima's* Chamber, she found an opportunity to escape from her own, and told the Janisaries so loud of it, that they were going to put all to the edge of the Sword, if the *Bassa* should be put to death, who was prisoner in the *Seraglio*, so that fear opened the Gates where he was kept, just as the Emperor's Orders were going to be executed.

His liberty made him not more fierce; but he learn'd the revolt of the Janisaries with

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much grief, and far from joyn-  
ing with them, he went to seek  
the Emperor with a resolution  
to die for his Interests. He  
found him in a Gallery whither  
he was forced to retire, whilst  
the Janisaries continued their  
Insolence.

The sight of *Solyman* astonish-  
ed *Mahomet*, who imagined that  
he who would not abhor the  
stabbing of *Eronima*, now led on  
the Rebels to attack him, but his  
submissive Deportment soon  
changed his opinion. Sir, said  
*Solyman*, upon his knees, and  
throwing his Cymeter down at  
his feet, I come endeavouring  
to merit that pardon which I beg  
of you; I am ready to die, to  
see that displeasure in you which  
I have occasioned, and to re-  
venge

venge you upon the very Authors of my Liberty; I have no sentiments for the Queen Sultaneſs which can offend you; and I was ſo far from being willing to deſtroy *Eronima*, that I would have died a thouſand times to preſerve her.

This Diſcourſe had ſo little appearance of truth to the Emperor that he gave no credit to it, *My eyes are convinced of what thou wouldſt diſavow*, ſaid he, *I am not ſo eaſily abuſed; I am perſwaded of the correſpondence thou haſt with Racima, and not leſs of the enormous Enterprize which thou haſt made againſt the life of Eronima, purſue thy treachery, Villain, and affect not an artificial excuſe, ſince I ought not to put*



any confidence in an Enemy who would assault my Glory and my Repose.

*Solyman* was not repulsed, but obliged all people to withdraw, and recited to the Emperor the intrigue of his Amours, avowing to him that he entred into the Gardens of the *Seraglio*, only with the hopes to see *Eronima*, and afterwards what had happened betwixt him and *Racima*.

The Emperor's surprise hereat was extraordinary; the importance of the *Bassa's* protestations perswaded him of the truth hereof; and as *Mahomet* had a Soul truly generous, he thought the *Bassa* was unhappy enough, since *Eronima* was perswaded

swaded he would have taken away her life. The Emperor's jealousy, notwithstanding, and interest for his glory were declared against his Rival, who to all appearances was tenderly beloved, and who against all Laws came even into the Womens *Seraglio* to demand new favours of *Eronima*; this crime touched the Emperor to the quick, but it was not now time to hearken to his Resentments, since all things made insurrection against him; *You are more happy than I*, said he to *Solyman*, the heart of *Eronima* has declared in your favour; and 'tis to you alone that I owe all these rigours; two words may justifie you to her, and my own indignation is not powerful enough to oblige me to take vengeance.

ance on you, triumph over my misfortune, and my weakness ; but at least stay till the Fanisaries have completed their Enterprize, and let me not see those things which will prove much more cruel to me than the loss of my whole Empire. Solymán, who knew the violent humor of the Sultan, and was not ignorant that it had oftentimes transported him even to cruelty, was astonished at his moderation. Believe not that I abuse your bounty, Sir, said he to him, I have not pretended to justify my self to you in avowing that I loved *Eronima*, but only to let you know that I am sincere and unfortunate, that I loved before you, and that I have used all my industry and care to surmount my love, which if it be absolute  
over.

over me, Sir, the zeal and respect I have for you are not less, and I have as much ardor and fidelity for my Master as for my Mistress, let us then endeavour to subject the Mutineers, and secure an authority equal to the merit of your glory: and after this, Sir, said he, sighing, you shall peaceably enjoy the presence of *Eronima*.

Whilst these two illustrious Rivals did thus explain themselves, news was brought to the Emperor, that the tumult and disorder continually increased, that the *Seraglio* began to mutiny, and every one declared for *Racima*. If you have any fidelity remaining for me, said the Emperor to *Solyman*, you see how necessary it is to make it appear, go shew

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your



*your self to the Janisaries, and endeavour to appease their fury, whilst I labour to calm the Seraglio.* The Sultan delayed no longer, but pressed himself where necessity called him, whilst *Solyman* marched to the Mutineers; his presence made them give great Shouts for joy; *Morat* was one of those who took the greatest share in the good fortune of his Liberty, but they were not in a place to take that satisfaction their Amity required.

*Solyman* made a long discourse to the Janisaries exhorting them to their obedience due to the Emperor, but he found them not in any such disposition; they all cryed out, To war, to war; and

and the *Bassa* persisting in his persuasions, was threatned with a more rude entertainment from them, than in the prison of the *Seraglio*.

The people of *Constantinople* looked on quietly, during these Divisions, flattering themselves with a more mild Government in the minority of *Bajazet*, they took not the Emperor's part, the *Aga* of the Janisaries made what progress he could, and *Mahomet*, who before was the terror of the world, was now at the very point of being sacrificed to the jealousy of a Woman.

In all the different Allarms, *Eronima* had particular ones, the uproar of the Janisaries reached

reached her Apartment, which she could not distinguish, and the fear of hearing some dreadful news of *Solyman*, made her not dare to enquire. *Altadis* never quitted her, neither did he understand the state of Affairs: at length they arrived to that pitch of disorder, that the *Seraglio* of the Women was attacked, *Racima's* party endeavoured to facilitate the Janisaries entrance, or at least they would deliver *Eronima* to them; *Mahomet* had contracted their odium by certain severities which had animated even the very lowest of their Officers against him, and he had the displeasure to see them all come over to the interest of the Queen Sultaneſs.

He

He fought furiously against all that approached him ; but what valour could be able to resist so great Forces ? he encountered singly against a formidable Party, whose Efforts redoubled each moment ; and whatever *Solyman*, *Morat*, and their Friends could do to moderate the Janisaries ; all obstacles were nigh surmounted, when the Emperor was seen to appear upon a Balcony, but in such a manner that made the stoutest Courages to tremble with horror ; his countenance was affrighting , and all his action terrible, he held in one hand his Cymeter covered over with blood, the other held the head of a Woman, just separated from her Body, the face thereof was so mangled,

none



none could discern the features, and many believed it was *Racina's*; *Solyman* himself imagined so, and though the Sultan's Action appeared barbarous to him, he did not condole a woman who had too well merited the like Treatment. The Janisaries immediately prepared themselves to revenge her death upon the Sultan, when he undeceived them in this manner.

*Behold the object of your hatred,* said he to them with a loud voice, that he might be heard by the farthest off, *Behold the head of Eronima, which I deliver to you, and which with my own hand I have sacrificed to your fury, judge by this so unexpected an action, of what great things Mahomet is capable*

pable, and tremble at the mighty works he is preparing for you; 'tis now that he will conduct you to such Enemies, whose valour shall revenge the amiable Eronima; do not think he will spare you, after this days surprising proof of his resolution, you shall see if you dare follow him, the most dreadful appearances the horrors of War can shew; but if this blood I have now spilt cannot satisfy you, come, cruel men, come quench your thirst with mine, and to complete this bloody Scene, crown Racima's ambition in elevating Bajazet to the Throne.

This Speech of the Sultan's, the sight of this head which had been so dear to him, and which he had cut off with his own hand,

hand, struck all the Spectators with astonishment; they approved this barbarous action, and had not broke silence, but to re-iterate their Acclamations, crying,

*Long live our great Emperor, Sultan Mahomet.*

But the despairing *Solyman* mixed most doleful Cryes with those of the Janisaries. What a dismal sight was this to him? In what a condition was the adorable *Eronima* presented to him? and what did he not find himself capable to do in his first transport? He alone had acted more than all the Janisaries, had his strength been answerable to his courage: But a most just grief

grief made her self intirely Mistress of his Soul, he fell down in a swoon amidst those that surrounded him, from whence *Morat* (who was neither less surprised, nor less afflicted) caused him to be carryed, whilst the Janisaries, being satisfied with *Mahomet's* Cruelty, took a new Oath of Fidelity to him, and retired from the *Seraglio*, whither the Emperor returned, after he had calmed all things.

*Solyman* recovered not his weakness, but only to give some marks of his despair, whereof *Morat* found it a hard task to moderate his Transports, he endeavoured by all sorts of Reasons and Arguments, to oblige the *Bassa* to make use of his constancy,



cy, but he heard him with trouble and full of just resentment, he meditated the destruction of all the Janisaries, the death of the barbarous *Mahomet*, and of pitylefs *Racima*: at length, the sacking of *Constantinople*, the intire ruine of the Empire, and the destruction of the whole *Ottoman Race*, were things too sweet for his Revenge.

Whilst he was thus occupied by all these sad Meditations, a Message came to him that the Emperor enquired for him! *How!* said he, *He that found no horror in spilling Eronima's blood, does he pretend that I shall see him peaceably, I shall undoubtedly go even to the Seraglio: but it shall only be to take away his life.*

Be

Be not so transported, replied *Morat*, he may perhaps say something to you may make you alter your opinion. *Alas, what can he say to me,* replied *Solyman*, *that can strike out of my memory the terrifying spectacle, he but now presented to my eyes? Have I not seen Eronima's Head separate from her body? The Cyrometer of this Barbarian, was it not stained with that blood which was so dear to me? And would you still have me moderate? The grand Gardiner at last perswaded Solyman to return to the Seraglio, without offering any violence.*

The night was far advanced when they arrived at the *Seraglio*; *Morat* conducted his Friend

Friend to the Emperor's Apartment, and there left him to go in alone ; for the order was not given for him. *Solyman* thus walked to the Sultan's Chamber, with all the emotion that a man can have, when he is going to see the Executioner of that person whom he loved the best in the world.

*Mahomet* was then without Guards, without Eunuchs, and in that dejected condition, which gave great facility to attempt his life : but *Solyman*, though enraged to the utmost, had a certain natural respect for his Prince, which opposed it self to all things wherewith his desire of vengeance could inspire him : *Come hither*, *Solyman*, said he to the  
Bass

*Bassa, come and enjoy the good fortune which the Fanisaries have procured you. Do not excite that despair, Sir, replied Solyman, which with all my industry I have found so difficult to moderate; content your self in that you have rendered me the most miserable of all men, without adding thereunto a rallery, which perhaps may force me to break thorow the bounds of my duty to you. Is it possible, replied the Emperor, that you could believe me capable of taking away Eronima's life, and that you should know me so ill, you whom I have ever distinguished from therest of my subjects by a sincere esteem and confidence? Alas, Sir, cried Solyman, have I not seen Eronima's head in your hands, and have*



have you not appeased the Janisaries by this barbarous sacrifice? 'Tis true, said the Sultan, that I have quieted their rage; but the head that you saw was not Eronima's, one of Racima's Slaves served us to secure the life of Eronima, and to restore peace and tranquility in the Seralio, and in the extremity whereto I saw my self reduced, I chose rather to send her from me, and lose all my repose, than to see her fall into the hands of the Fanisaries, who would have had no respect, either to her beauty, or my love: you shall learn the rest from Altamis (seeing that Eunuch come in) said he, and shall judge by his discourse whether you have any occasion to complain.

*Solyman*

*Solyman* was amazed, the Emperor went into his Closet; and *Altamis* spoke to the *Bassa* in this manner.

You know how obstinately the Janisaries persued their Insolencies, after you were at liberty; all the *Seraglio* revolted against *Mahamet*, and *Racima* alone commanded all there, whilst they without endeavoured to break down the Gates, which the Emperor courageously defended, taking less thought for the conservation of his own life and dignity, than for *Eronima's* safety, whom he saw so nearly threatned, considering at last that all his efforts were but in vain, and were now going to be surmounted, he generously resolved

resolved to have her conveyed out of the *Seraglio*, and leaving a small number of his Friends to amuse the Enemy, he ran to *Erionima's* Chamber, which I, by his order had not quitted.

All our Galleries were deserted, fear had obliged all the Sultaneſſes and the Slaves to retire, the Eunuchs were otherwise employed ; and the Emperor finding no obſtacle, He, Madam, quickly, ſaid he to the Princeſs, go ſeek in places more fortunate that repoſe which my paſſion hath robbed you of, delay not one moment, the Janiſaries are making themſelves Maſters of this place, and I tremble leſt they ſhould ſurpriſe you, the faithful *Altagis* ſhall conduct you, and  
I ſhall

I shall die with content, when you have nothing to fear; save her, my dear *Altagis*, and, if it be possible, secure her from all perils which can threaten her. The Princess would have replied, but the Emperor would not give her time;—we were just beginning our march, when I espied a Favourite Slave of *Racima's*, posted by her Mistresses Order, near *Eronima's* Apartment, to observe what passed; she would have cryed out to interrupt our escape, without respecting the Emperor. I avow to you, *Solyman*, the zeal I have for my Master, made me cruel, I took off the head of this Woman-Slave with one blow of my Cymeter; and considering at the same time, it was a means to

F                      secure



secure our secret, I disfigured the face, and presenting it to the Emperor: Hold, Sir, said I, appease the Janisaries in telling them this is the Head of *Eronima*, whilst I conduct her from these places to some securer Refuge.

The Sultan followed my advice, besmeared his Cymeter in blood, and shewed himself to the Janisaries in the manner you saw him, after he had given an adieu to the Princess full of tenderness.

You may well be astonished, that in the Womens *Seraglio*, which is ordinarily so frequented, we could be able to do what I have told you without being discovered,

discovered, but I have already observed to you that every one was retired, some for fear, and others upon the necessity of their Employes.

I had then time enough to oblige the Princess to take the Slave's Garments, and to cloath her with her own; she could not resolve upon this without difficulty, but I assisted her to make this Exchange, and afterwards conducted her to the most remote Corner of the Gardens, and put her into the hands of some Women who usually live there, to be serviceable to the Slaves of the Sultanes, making them believe she was one of *Racima's*, who having unfortunately displeased her, was forced

to abscond for some time. There she now continues in great safety: I returned to the *Seraglio*, where no body doubts of her death; and *Racima* not finding her Slave, thought she had fled to save her self, during those Commotions, preferring her liberty before the Sultaneſſes Favour.

This Discourse of *Atagis* created an inexpressible joy in *Solyman*, he presently banished from his heart all the horrors that had occupied it, and seeing the door of the Emperors Closet open, he went to throw himself at his feet, and to speak to him all that his acknowledgment & his love could inspire. *I did not deceive you*, said the Prince to him,

him, with a sigh, you are now going to enjoy all Eronima's tenderness, and the pleasure of making your own to appear; as for me, I fight, and perhaps may conquer: but if Love shall always tie me to her, I will go seek in Wars the end or the cure of all my Woes: she is still within the Bounds of the Seraglio, take her out of this place, which in time may prove fatal to her; I have already sacrificed my repose to her, and I will yet sacrifice to her the resentment which I may justly have for your enterprise against our Laws, and against my Love; 'tis to you that I bequeath her, since I am destined to lose her; I could deprive you of her as well as my self, by banishing her my Empire, but my jealousy is not of so blind an interest. Most



just reflections have made me decide in your favour; and since I have judged you worthy of my esteem, and my friendship, I cannot remit a Princess whom I have adored, and who still is more dear to me than my Life, into better Hands than yours; I do love her, and 'tis by this reason that I find some consolation in giving her to a person of whom she is beloved. 'Tis thus that Mahomet, who hath hitherto passed for a cruel Soul, and who hath sufficiently confirmed it by the pretended death of Eronima, doth revenge himself of a pitiless Mistress, and of a Rival who hath so highly offended him.

The Bassa was so charmed at what he heard, that hardly could he give the Emperor any part of  
the

the praises due to his Generosity; he condoled the unlucky chance of so great a man, and was convinced that he alone was the person worthy of *Eronima*; and having returned thanks a thousand times for his life, and his good fortune, he went to seek *Morat*, who was to receive the Princess from the Hands of *Altagis* at one of the Garden Gates.

This News was not less surprizing to the Gardiner, than it was to *Solyman*. Although the Night was far advanced, *Morat* ran to the place where *Altagis* expected him; and *Solyman* ravished with joy attended the Princess at his Friends House, who advised him not to  
F 4 accompany

accompany her thither, for fear of giving the least suspicion by the number of persons.

*Eronima* had seen all that passed with a warmness which much resembled an indifference, *Solyman's* infidelity had so touched her, that she found not her self sensible at any thing else: she heard he was alive, but knew nothing of his innocence: *Morat* having received her from the hands of *Attagis*, spake several times to her, but she had not the force to answer him: at length they entred into the *Bostangi Bassa's* House, and by the light of several Flamboes she saw *Solyman*; he immediately prostrated himself at her Feet, and there lay without being able to

to express himself ; his presence and his action equally astonished the Princess ; she had not seen him since he attempted her life, and sighing for grief that she should still find in her self a tender inclination towards a person who deserved it so little: *Is it, said she, the regret that you could not sacrifice me to Racima's Fury, that casts you into these transports, or is it the displeasure you had to see the Emperor's Fiction succeed? It was not long of me that you did not execute your Design, neither was it the care I took of my own safety that secured it ; fortune would preserve me for a continuation of misfortunes which she has destined for me : Ah ! Solymán, that you had not spared me, that you had taken less pity on me at the*  
F 5
taking



*taking of Constantinople.* *Eronima's* tears interrupted her discourse; *Solyman* had leisure to answer, and the Princesses eyes were full of languish, which required his justification. I should appear a thousand times more criminal than you can reproach me, Madam, said he, and fortune was resolved to shew in my Adventure all her most fantastical and surprising tricks. But my Princess in spite of all her appearances has not your heart taken my part? Have you believed me capable of assassinating you? I who have always adored you, and who never sought any thing but you at the peril of my life; and who respired no other pleasure than that of seeing you perswaded of my passion.

on. Ah, Madam ! how happy had I been, if you had a little fought for me. *Was I not a witness to your passionate discourse with Racima, said Eronima, in the Grotto ? And did you not come even to my Bed to sacrifice me to her jealousy ?* 'Tis true, replied the Bassa, that I was in your Appartment, and that she conducted me thither ; but if I might merit any thing from you it should be only by this Adventure that I might appear so criminal to you. He then recounted to the Princess after what manner he was engaged into this Counter-plot, which rendred him Master of all *Racima's* Secrets : *Morat* seconded his Friend, and wholly convinced the Princess that he was innocent ;

cent; she desired it too much not to be perswaded thereof; and *Solyman* had yet a much more puissant Mediator than the grand Gardiner, the lovely *Eronima* yielded, tasted the pleasure to see her self out of the *Seraglio*, and to find *Solyman* constant, who in a few moments saw himself the happiest of all men, after so many Traverses.

In the mean time *Altagis* gave the Emperor an account how he had disposed of *Eronima*. This Prince who passed for the greatest of his age, now found himself in a most deplorable estate; his subjecting the Janisaries in putting an end to the troubles of the *Seraglio*, had not quieted

eted those of his heart. At some hours he was resolved to abandon the Empire, and renounce all the glory of his life, to spend the rest of his days with *Eronima*; but considering he could never make himself beloved of her, that all the ardor of his passion, the merit of his person, and the splendor of the greatest fortune in the world were not capable of moving her; he concluded that would not be the means to make him the more happy; sometimes his jealousy inflamed him against *Solyman*, for he alone possessed *Eronima's* affections, he had merited death in violating the Laws of the *Seraglio*, but resolving not to conquer himself by the halves, he considered, that



that in losing *Solyman* he should contract new Enemies against himself, he generously triumphed over his passion, abandoned the interest of his heart to his Glory, and resolved not to thwart two persons whom fortune had united, and love had favourised.

*Racima* on the other side endeavoured to banish *Solyman* from her heart, the death of *Eronima* gave her hopes of the Emperors return to her; but her Crime was none of those which are easily forgotten; the Emperor always remembered it, but he was too sensible of her power, and durst not declare his just resentments; he contented himself to see her seldom,  
and

and to draw off what ever esteem or amity he ever had for her.

He found himself indisposed for some days, and could not go out of the *Seraglio* ; it was imagined, that *Eronima* was the cause thereof: *Solyman* was taken up in telling her all that he had suffered for her, she would not quit *Morat's* House, and the Emperor came thither to visit her as soon as his health could permit ; this Honor which the Sultans give to few persons, gave the Princess new Allarms ; *Morat* and *Solyman* were with her when the Sultan arrived, the Princess and the *Bassa* changed their Countenances when he came in: *Be not disturbed,*  
said

said Mahomet to them, 'tis the design of securing your repose that brings me hither, and afterwards to bid you an eternal Adieu. As for you, Madam, he continued, addressing himself to the Princess, though you could not love me, I hope you will not refuse me some esteem; perhaps I have deserved it, by the victory I have obtained over my passion, nothing can for the future justify me of the barbarous Action which I was obliged to feign, and all those who shall read the History of my Life, will look upon me as a Monster; but I shall console my self in it, for as much as it hath been serviceable to you.

Sir, the Princess answered, I have nothing to reproach my self

self of, in respect of that esteem which you demand of me ; and if I have had any Sentiments opposite to yours, they have not detracted from those which all the earth ought to have for your merit, and now that I am overwhelmed with your Bounties, that all your Generosity is declared in my favour, what acknowledgments thereof ought I not to conserve.

*If I have done any thing for you,*  
 replied the Emperor, *hitherto it*  
*can only be attributed to the inter-*  
*est of my Glory ; but I must yet go*  
*farther, fortune which hath ren-*  
*dered me too happy against your Fa-*  
*family, hath not left you in an estate*  
*worthy of your self : suffer me,*  
*fair Leonima, to repair part of*  
*those*



those outrages (he has committed against you, and receive some succor, without repugnancy from the hand of a Prince who still loves you in spite of all things that ought to hinder it; the Present I shall make you is agreeable to your inclination, 'tis Solymán, whom perhaps I should less have favoured at a time when reason had a less Empire over me: he is of a blood respected amongst us, there are no Kings whose alliance he may not hope for, and I had designed my Sister for him: you are perswaded that he loves you, and I am not less certain that he is beloved by you, accept him then, with all that I possess in Asia, the stately City of Trebizond, wherewith I have enriched our Empire, shall be your secure Sanctuary: there pass all  
your

*your days more happy than mine, and there retain some remembrance of Mahomet.*

*Eronima* and *Solyman* were so satisfied, that for a long time their silence spoke for them : at length they testified their Acknowledgments to the Emperor, who told the grand Gardiner, that since *Solyman* could not have *Bassima*: he gave her to him as soon as the Princess could recover her Indisposition. The Joy was equal amongst these three persons ; and *Mahomet* having continued with them some few moments, after he bid them adieu, which cost *Eronima* some tears, returned to the *Seraglio*.

On the morrow the Emperor  
sent

sent *Solyman* the Commissions for the Government of those places he had promised him, the Princess worse dependance now was only upon her self, gave her self for ever to him; they made their voyage to *Trebizond*, and there established themselves gloriously: *Morat* espoused the Sultaneſs *Baſſima*; and the Emperor performed his promise to the Janifaries in conducting them to new Conquests.

FINIS.



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